

Message Text

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46

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

INR-10 INRE-00 CIAE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7033

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CSAF

DA

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: FMS KUWAIT - STATUS REPORT

REF: KUWAIT 2267

SUMMARY: ACCORDING CHIEF OF STAFF MUBARAK GOK HAS APPROVED OVERALL MILITARY EXPANSION PACKAGE AND PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING GAIN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL. HE ANTICIPATES LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL AND RAPID FORWARD MOVEMENT THEREAFTER. MUBARAK REQUESTED M-60 TANK DEMONSTRATION AND PERMISSION FOR KUWAITI AIR FORCE OFFICERS VISIT US TO OBSERVE F-5E. MUBARAK ALSO INDICATED IMMINENT NEED FOR US LIAISON OFFICER. BELIEVE USG SHOULD GIVE URGENT ATTENTION SATISFYING THESE REQUESTS. END SUMMARY

1. HOENIG, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF, HAD OPPORTUNITY REVIEW US MILITARY SALES PROGRAM WITH CHIEF OF STAFF GEN MUBARAK, WHO BEGAN CONVERSATION BY STATING GOK NOT HOLDING BACK OR DELAYING AT ALL ON ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. HE SAID ONLY PROBLEM IS BUDGET AND THAT MAY BE RESOLVED VERY SOON. HE EXPLAINED THAT SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL (ANALOGOUS TO OUR OWN NSC) AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAVE ALREADY APPROVED DEFENSE BUDGET PACKAGE. MINDEF SHAIKH SAAD TESTIFYING TODAY (JULY 2) BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEFENSE AND

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SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN CLOSED SESSION. MUBARAK SAID HE

EXPECTED COMMITTEE APPROVAL AND ASSEMBLY CONCURRENCE. FINAL WORD
EXPECTED SHORTLY SINCE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED ADJOURN ON OR ABOUT
JULY 3.

2. MUBARAK THEN SAID LETTER FROM GOK ON ITS WAY REQUESTING THAT
M-60A1 TANK BE SENT TO KUWAIT FOR DEMONSTRATION. AS ANTICIPATED
(REFTEL) KUWAITI ARMY WANTS OPPORTUNITY OBSERVE VEHICLE WITH
STABILIZATION DEVICE OPERATE HERE UNDER SEVERE SUMMER CONDITIONS.

3. MUBARAK ALSO SAID ANOTHER LETTER ON ITS WAY TO EMBASSY
REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR FIVE KUWAITI PILOTS AND ENGINEERS TO
GO TO US FOR QUICK TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF F-5E. WE EXPECT GOK
WILL LEAVE MOST DETAILS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT TO USG.

4. ON OTHER MATTERS MUBARAK INDICATED GOK WILL WANT US LIAISON
OFFICER AVAILABLE ASAP ONCE BUDGET APPROVED AND SOME L/O'S HAVE
BEEN SIGNED. RE SECURITY AGREEMENT HE INDICATED GOK WILLINGNESS
ENTER AGREEMENT BUT FORM SHOULD BE SUCH SO AS TO AVOID NECESSITY
GOK OBTAINING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL WHICH REQUIRED FOR
FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS. HE INDICATED GOK
COULD LIVE WITH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OR SIMILAR RELATIVELY
INFORMAL AGREEMENT. RE FINANCING HE SAID SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD
BEEN FORMED CONSISTING OF KHALAF (DIRECTOR, KUWAIT MILITARY
AFFAIRS OFFICE LONDON) AND REPS FROM MUBARAK'S OFFICE, MOD AND
MINISTRY FINANCE AND OIL. AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, MUBARAK SAW NO
NEED FOR EMBASSY TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE.

5. COMMENT: MUBARAK'S REMARKS TO HOENIG GIVE STRONG INDICATION
THAT US MILITARY SALES PROGRAM HERE ON VERGE ENTERING NEW PHASE.
ONCE LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF BUDGET IS OBTAINED, GOK CAN BE
EXPECTED MOVE FORWARD ALTHOUGH I EXPECT ACTION ON SOME ITEMS
(E.G. AIRCRAFT, TANKS, M-800 SERIES TRUCKS) WILL BE DELAYED PENDING
ANSWERS TO CERTAIN OF OUR QUERIES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER
DEVELOPMENTS. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: BASED ON ABOVE BELIEVE FOLLOWING MATTERS
SHOULD BE GIVEN MOST URGENT ATTENTION:

(A) DEMONSTRATOR M-60A1 TANK SHOULD BE AIRLIFTED TO KUWAIT ASAP.

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(B) PREPARATIONS SHOULD BEGIN FOR F-5E DEMONSTRATION VISIT IN
US.

(C) SENIOR PERMANENT US MILREP SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND ASSIGNED
HERE TDY PENDING PCS (SEPTELS FOLLOW).
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